Survey
File 164

LEXICAL SIMILARITY OF HINDKO DIALECTS

Procedures.

Determining the percentage of lexical similarity between the vario dialects of the northern areas is one aspect of the survey. Lexical closene is determined by collecting a 210-item vocabulary list from several locati covering a wide area within a language zone. The word list used for the Hind surveys was first translated into Urdu. Speakers of the local language who ha lived in the vicinity from birth were sought as informants.

The vocabulary items elicited from the informants are recorded in phoneti script. After obtaining a complete word list from one individual, a seco informant was sought out in order to double-check the first informant vocabulary. This re-checking procedure is meant to clarify any semantic error to uncover items with more than one local word for a single Urdu word, and filter out loan words.

Findings.

Vocabulary items were collected from the Hindko-speaking areas of Hazara division, Peshawar city, Kohat city, and Attock city. Because of the large number of Hindko speakers in the Hazara division, we chose to stratify the division into five main areas: Southern Abbottabad district (SA); Northern Abbottabad district (NA); and three locations within Southern Mansehra district (M1, M2, and M3). Word lists were collected from each of these five locations within Hazara division. Besides the lists collected from Hazara division, we also elicited lists from Peshawar city (Pe), Kohat city (Ko), and Attock city (At).

Chart X shows the percentages of lexical similarity for the eight locatio arranged according to geographical proximity. M1 and M2

are the northernmost Hindko dialects on the chart, followed by those dialects which are increasingly southward in Hazara division. The three dialects outside of Hazara division are similarly arranged according to increasing distance from Hazara division. except that Pe is closer than K

The five locations within Hazara division show high percentages of lexical similarity with each other. All of the percentages which are comparisons between two locations within Hazara division are above 80%, and most are above 85%.

	M1						
	89	M2					
Hazara	87	92	M3				
Division	87	89	90	NA			
	84	85	84	89	SA		
	78	80	82	82	88	At	
Outside	77	81	77	81	87	93	Ko
Hazara	70	73	74	71	73	78	79 Pe

CHART X: LEXICAL SIMILARITY OF HINDKO DIALECTS

Regarding those Hindko dialects outside of Hazara division, the Kohat an Attock forms show a high 93% of similar lexical items in common with each other but they both have below 80% in common with the Peshawar Hindko. Therefore i is not surprising to find that Kohat and Attock show similar levels o similarity with the Hazara division dialects, whereas the Peshawar Hindko leve of similalrity with the Hazara division dialects is lower.

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Co-Worker Involvement.

Mr. Amjad and Mr. Bhatti gained experience in eliciting lexical items fr speakers of Gujuri and Hindko, respectively. Mr. Bhatti also elicited Punj items from various students at Quaid-i-Azam University in order to compare t form of Punjabi spoken in Lahore with that spoken in Wazirabad. Some of t co-workers have also received training in phonetics through formal classes wh have been held.